**Consumer fora in Gujarat**

3855. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented for one time grant for creating consumer fora in the new districts;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to provide the grant; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) In the meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council held on 8.11.2000, the representative of the Government of Gujarat requested that financial assistance of Rs. 120 lacs be released for the setting up of District Forums in six newly created districts in Gujarat. However, it has not been possible to meet the request as at present there is no approved scheme for the purpose.

**Auctions of rotten foodgrains**

†3856. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 354 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 2001 and state:

(a) the places where the rotten foodgrains have been disposed of by auctions and the number of people that participated in such auctions;

(b) the official value of 502.138 tonne wheat, 16.75 tonne flour and 460.95 tonne rice and the amount recovered through auctions for these items; and

(c) whether such foodgrains are still lying in godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Merger of NTH with BIS**

3857. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for merger of National Test House with Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the proposal has been examined by any group of experts or professionals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government have constituted a Committee to work out modalities of merger of National Test House with Bureau of Indian Standards. The Committee, *inter-alia* included Technical members from Bureau of Indian Standards, National Test House and representatives from Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and Department of Personnel & Training. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

**Minimum price for export of basmati rice**

3858. DR. (MS.) SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed minimum price for export of basmati rice to European countries;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of basmati rice to be exported during the year 2002-03; and

(c) the other varieties of rice to be permitted/promoted by Government for export from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has not fixed any minimum price for the export of basmati rice to the European Countries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The export of non-basmati rice is free. The requiremem of registration of contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Food